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AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTERDocket No.
64104-00002USC1Application No.
10/699208-Conf. #2784Filing Date
October 31, 2003Examiner
M. G. MendozaArt Unit
3731

Applicant(s): Leonard Stevens et al.

Invention: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLOSING A SEVERED STERNUM

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED					
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid	Number Extra Claims Present	Rate	
Total Claims		- 20 =		X	
Independent Claims		- 3 =		X	
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					
Other fee (please specify):					
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT:					

 Large Entity Small Entity No additional fee is required for this amendment. Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed. Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 10-0447
as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. Credit any overpayment. Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.

Dated: March 24, 2005

Michael W. Maddox

Attorney Reg. No.: 47,764

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

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Dated: March 24, 2005

Signature: 
(Marcy Overstreet)

Docket No.: 64104-00002USC1
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Leonard Stevens et al.

Application No.: 10/699208

Confirmation No.: 2784

Filed: October 31, 2003

Art Unit: 3731

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLOSING
A SEVERED STERNUM

Examiner: M. G. Mendoza

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated January 19, 2005, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 8 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.